

ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA  
WESTERN STATES REGION  
Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico  
[www.aoaccess.org](http://www.aoaccess.org)

March 5, 2004

To the Honorable FCC Commissioners, and staff of the  
Localism Task Force:

The FCC Localism Task Force, launched by Chairman Powell in August of 2003, released an announcement in October, scheduling hearings to inviting input from consumers, industry, civic organizations and others regarding broadcast localism. Among the dates posted included the only West Coast hearing, scheduled for Santa Cruz/Salinas, California, tentatively for March 2004.

The Western States Regional Board of the Alliance for Community Media is appreciative that the FCC has made a commitment to undertake a comprehensive study of FCC localism-related rules. Our local constituents throughout Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, and in California have been looking forward with great anticipation to the opportunity to participate in the panel discussions and public hearings.

However, we are concerned the month of March will pass without a confirmed date for a public hearing on the West Coast. Today we have received notice that a date has been scheduled for Rapid City, SD, but no word for West Coast hearing. Continuing to make preparations, we wish to avoid any disappointments such as a prolonged delay or cancellation. Therefore, ACM Western States Regional Board respectfully requests that the Localism Task Force set a date for the West Coast (CA.) hearing preferably no later than April of 2004.

We hope to provide unique local perspectives, documenting the challenges and successes we've had in working closely with municipalities, telecom providers, educational institutions, community groups, and non-profit organizations. We successfully provide thousands of public-interest programs annually, created within and for our respective localities, and utilize media to further democratic principles. We believe our experiences would prove informative, and may serve as a model for further study by the Task Force and the Commission.

The ACM Western Region also could offer the Task Force speaker recommendations for the panel discussions that precede the public hearings (pending their availability on the date the FCC sets for the public hearing).

We look forward to the Localism Task Force confirming a hearing date and place on the West Coast. We want to provide testimony before the FCC, offer ideas for local solution-oriented approaches and continue to honor our

commitment serving the public interest, convenience, and necessity. If you are interested, the ACM West may be of assistance helping to secure a date and location. If we can be of any help, please call.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully Yours,

Ron Cooper, Chair  
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Executive Director, Access Sacramento (CA)

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